

children : many of us know how hard it is to memorize botanical terms which in boyhood were instantly fixed in our memories. On the other hand, with increasing years, we improve in the faculty of appreciating the properties of our impressions, and of detecting connections between one impression and another which incidentally enable us to illustrate our ideas with greater fecundity. This is what is called the "wisdom of the aged."

Some individuals are blessed with good, others are afflicted with bad memories. But in mankind generally, the faculty of remembering is more highly developed than in any of the lower animals. We speak of the good memories of dogs and horses, but should be surprised by an anecdote which showed that recollections endured with them for so long as ten years. Lower down the scale the scope for memory diminishes with the growing usurpations of directive instinct. Recollections are vivid during the performance of an instinctive task, but, this completed, they fade away. Whilst an egg-cell is under construction, it is ever-present to the bee ; once finished, it ceases to exist for her. But the faculty seems to persist, however little it may be developed : some insects recollect occurrences that are unconnected with their instinctive processes.

HABIT.—Nervous tissue has a tendency to repeat its reaction to a stimulus. Our hearts and

lungs illustrate this tendency by their regular pulsations, and many of us know how rapidly faults of style, in playing games or performing upon instruments, become stereotyped. This proclivity to repeat is strengthened by practice : it is by practice that we attain the repetitive facility that is needed for walking, speaking, and